

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable electrode array for insertion through an insertion point into at least the basal region of the cochlea, the array comprising:
 - an elongate carrier ~~having a longitudinal axis; having a proximal end, a distal end, and~~
 - a plurality of electrodes ~~supported by the disposed in said carrier; and carrier at~~
 - respective spaced locations thereon in a region between the proximal end and the distal end;
 - and
 - a ~~stabilising~~ stabilizing collar disposed adjacent to said carrier means extending outwardly from the elongate carrier at or adjacent a proximal end thereof, the stabilising collar means having comprising:
 - an abutment surface ~~adapted configured to abut at least a portion of the a~~
 - surface of the cochlea adjacent the insertion point; and
 - at least ~~one anchor configured to substantially prevent movement translation~~
 - by said carrier along, and rotation about, the longitudinal axis of said carrier, of the carrier following completion of insertion of the array into the cochlea.
2. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein the said collar means comprises:
 - a first collar portion of the carrier having a diameter greater than that of the remainder of the said carrier.
3. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein said collar comprises a distal end connected to said carrier, and wherein a distal end of the collar means comprises the said abutment surface is disposed on said distal end of said collar.
4. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of ~~claim 3~~ claim 3, wherein the said abutment surface extends outwardly from the said carrier at least substantially at a substantially right angle to the longitudinal axis of the said carrier.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein the said collar means is formed integrally with ~~the said carrier member~~.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein the anchoring means ~~said anchor~~ extends outwardly at or is disposed adjacent the to said abutment surface of the collar means.

9. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein the anchoring means ~~said anchor comprises~~ is made of a mesh material configured to be sutured to a recipient thereby affixing said anchor to the recipient, through which sutures can be passed and into the tissue and/or bone to secure the mesh to the tissue and/or bone.

10. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of claim 9 wherein ~~the said mesh material comprising the anchoring means is moulded within the~~ is formed integrally with said collar means.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of claim 1 further comprising: wherein an at least one indicator means is provided disposed on the said collar of the elongate carrier configured to convey to the surgeon the indicate rotational orientation of the electrodes on the electrode array.

13. (Currently Amended) The implantable electrode array of claim 1 wherein the array is configured for inserting insertable within to approximately a cochlea to a depth that is at or beyond the first basal turn in the basal region of the cochlea.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of inserting an implantable electrode array into at least the basilar region of the scala tympani duct of a recipient's cochlea, ~~said the~~ electrode array having comprising a collar means comprising an abutting surface on the array and at least one anchor attached to the collar and the array thereto at or adjacent a proximal end thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) ~~forming an opening into in the cochlea to allow access to the scala tympani duct;~~
- (ii) ~~inserting a distal end of said electrode array into the scala tympani duct cochlea and advancing the array therein; and~~
- (iii) ~~abutting at least a portion of said said abutting surface on said collar means to the tissue surrounding said opening formed in the cochlea, wherein said collar at least partially seals said opening into the cochlea and is arranged so that the electrode array is stabilised within the cochlea; and~~
securing the electrode array to prevent translation by the array along, and rotation about, a longitudinal axis of the electrode array.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 22 claim 22~~, wherein the method further ~~comprises an additional step prior to step (ii), in which a fascia washer further comprising:~~
fabricating a fascia washer using the recipient's tissue; and
positioning the is-fabricated washer and placed over said electrode the array prior to its insertion before said inserting into the cochlea.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 23 claim 23~~, wherein the ~~fascia washer fascia washer~~ comprises ~~a piece of temporalis fascia tissue that is harvested from the recipient.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 22 claim 22~~, wherein ~~said array securing the array~~ further comprises:
an anchoring means extending outwardly from the collar means and wherein said method comprises an additional step of attaching said anchoring means the at least one anchor to the recipient adjacent the formed opening to the tissue and/or bone at or proximate the site of insertion of the carrier.

26-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the collar further comprises an indicator disposed therein, the method further comprising:
orienting the array during said inserting with respect to the cochlea using the indicator.

37. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein inserting said electrode array into the cochlea further comprises:

halting said inserting when a distal end of the array is at the first basilar turn of the cochlea.

38. (New) An implantable electrode array for insertion through an opening at an insertion point into at least the basal region of the cochlea, the array comprising:

means for abutting configured to abut the array against a surface of the cochlea adjacent the insertion point; and

means for anchoring said abutting means to the surface of cochlea adjacent the insertion point to prevent translation by the array along, and rotation about, a longitudinal axis of the array.

39. (New) The implantable electrode array of claim 38, wherein said means for anchoring the array is configured as a mesh.

40. (New) The implantable electrode array of claim 38, further comprising:

means for orienting the array with respect to the cochlea.

41. (New) The implantable electrode array of claim 1, wherein said abutment surface is further configured to seal the cochlea at the insertion point.

42. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein abutting said abutting surface further comprises:

sealing the opening in the cochlea with said abutting surface.

43. (New) The implantable electrode array of claim 38 wherein said means for abutting further comprises means for sealing the cochlea opening at the insertion point.